

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-2. (Canceled)
3. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display according to claim 38, the laminated retardation optical element ~~according to claim 2,~~ further comprising a  $\lambda/2$  retardation layer having a function of bringing, to light that passes through this retardation layer, a phase difference corresponding to a half of a wavelength of the light, the  $\lambda/2$  retardation layer being optically bonded to a surface of the  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer serving as the A plate-type retardation layer, on a side opposite to the C plate-type retardation layer.
4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display laminated ~~retardation optical element~~ according to claim 3, wherein the  $\lambda/2$  retardation layer comprises a cross-linked nematic liquid crystal.
5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display laminated ~~retardation optical element~~ according to claim 3, wherein an angle between an axis of phase advance of the  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer serving as the A plate-type retardation layer and that of the  $\lambda/2$  retardation layer is  $60 \pm 10$  degrees.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display according to claim 38, the laminated retardation optical element ~~according to claim 1,~~ further comprising an additional C plate-type retardation layer that is optically bonded to a surface of the C plate-type retardation layer on a side opposite to the A plate-type retardation layer and acts as a negative C plate,

wherein the additional C plate-type retardation layer comprises a cross-linked chiral nematic or discotic liquid crystal, a total thickness of the C plate-type retardation layer and the additional C plate-type retardation layer is 6  $\mu\text{m}$  or more, and a thickness of the C plate-type retardation layer is nearly equal to that of the additional C plate-type retardation layer.

8. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display according to claim 38, the laminated retardation optical element ~~according to claim 2,~~ further comprising a polarization layer having a function of controlling a state of polarization of light that passes through the  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer serving as the A plate-type retardation layer.

9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display laminated retardation optical element according to claim 8, wherein an angle between an axis of phase advance of the  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer serving as the A plate-type retardation layer and an axis of transmission of the polarization layer is  $45 \pm 2$  degrees.

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display laminated retardation optical element according to claim 3, further comprising a polarization layer having a function of controlling a state of polarization of light that passes through the  $\lambda/2$  retardation layer.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display laminated retardation optical element according to claim 10, wherein an angle between an axis of phase advance of the  $\lambda/2$  retardation layer and an axis of transmission of the polarization layer is  $15 \pm 5$  degrees.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display according to claim 38, ~~laminated retardation optical element according to claim 1,~~ wherein nematic liquid crystalline

components contained in the retardation layers bonded adjacently to each other are substantially the same.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display according to claim 38, laminated retardation optical element according to claim 1, wherein the A plate-type retardation layer is subjected to patterning to make it into a predetermined pattern.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display according to claim 38, laminated retardation optical element according to claim 1, wherein the C plate-type retardation layer is subjected to patterning to make it into a predetermined pattern.

16-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display comprising:

- a liquid crystal cell of VA mode;
- a pair of polarizers between which the liquid crystal cell is sandwiched; and
- a laminated retardation optical element ~~according to claim 2,~~ placed between the liquid crystal cell and at least one of the polarizers, the laminated retardation optical element comprising:
  - an A plate-type retardation layer that acts as an A plate; and
  - a C plate-type retardation layer that is optically bonded to a surface of the A plate-type retardation layer and acts as a negative C plate, wherein the C plate-type retardation layer has a thickness of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less;

wherein:

- the A plate-type retardation layer comprises a cross-linked nematic liquid crystal, and the C plate-type retardation layer comprises a cross-linked chiral nematic liquid crystal;

a difference between a mean refractive index of the A plate-type retardation layer and a mean refractive index of the C plate-type retardation layer is 0.05 or less; and

the A plate-type retardation layer is a  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer having a function of bringing, to light that passes through this retardation layer, a phase difference corresponding to a quarter of a wavelength of the light;

wherein the laminated retardation optical element is arranged so that the C plate-type retardation layer is situated on a side close to the liquid crystal cell;

an additional  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer having a function of bringing, to light that passes through this retardation layer, a phase difference corresponding to a quarter of a wavelength of the light, placed on the liquid crystal cell on a side opposite to the laminated retardation optical element; and

an additional polarization layer having a function of controlling a state of polarization of light that passes through the additional  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer, placed on the additional  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer on a side opposite to the liquid crystal cell;

wherein an angle between an axis of phase advance of the additional  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer and an axis of transmission of the additional polarization layer is  $45 \pm 2$  degrees.

39-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display according to ~~claim 39~~, claim 38, wherein an angle between an axis of phase advance of the additional  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer and that of the  $\lambda/4$  retardation layer contained in the laminated retardation optical element is substantially equal to 90 degrees.

43. (Original) The liquid crystal display according to claim 38, wherein liquid crystalline molecules sealed in the liquid crystal cell are inclined in two or more different directions when an electric field is applied.

44-50. (Canceled)